



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/489,669	01/24/2000	Branko Kovacevic	0100.9901410	6121

34456 7590 07/17/2003

TOLER & LARSON & ABEL L.L.P.
PO BOX 29567
AUSTIN, TX 78755-9567

EXAMINER

BRITT, CYNTHIA H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2133

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

18

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

27

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/489,669

Applicant(s)

KOVACEVIC ET AL.

Examiner

Cynthia Britt

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 46-56 and 59-61 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45, 57 and 58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 14.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-61 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 objected to because of the following informalities: The wording of claim 7 is "enabling error detection" referring back to claim 1 where the wording is "enabling detection of a condition that identifies as an error...". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear to the examiner the meaning of "...until a new PES header is start code found." (line 3 of claim 57).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 46-49, 50-56, and 59-61 are allowable over the prior arts of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention pertains to a method for handling errors in a system for receiving packet stream data.

The claimed invention (claim 46 as the broadest claim) recites features such as "...asserting a first register field of the system to enable detecting as an error condition a received packet having a scrambled portion; and negating the first register field of the system to disable detecting as an error condition the received packet having a scrambled portion; and performing an error recovery operation when the received packet has the scrambled portion and the register field is asserted"

The prior arts of record (Nuber et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,742,623 is an example of such prior arts) teach a method and apparatus for communicating data via a packetized data stream, and the detection of and recovery from errors in high rate digital data streams including an indication of scrambling within the packet. The prior arts however do not teach "...asserting a first register field of the system to enable detecting as an error condition a received packet having a scrambled portion; and negating the first register field of the system to disable detecting as an error condition the received packet having a scrambled portion; and performing an error recovery operation when the received packet has the scrambled portion and the register field is asserted". Hence, the prior arts of record do not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed inventions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11, 20, 21, and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nuber et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,742,623.

As per claim 1, Nuber et al. teach a method and apparatus for communicating data via a packetized data stream, and the detection of and recovery from errors in high rate digital data streams including an indication of scrambling within the packet "One field included in each isodata transport packet is a field that contains two transport.sub.-- scrambling control bits, indicating whether the data in the transport packet is encrypted. When an isodata transport packet is received with its transport.sub.-- scrambling.sub.-- control bits set to anything other than not.sub.-- scrambled, this condition will be treated identically to reception of an isodata transport packet which has its transport.sub.-- error.sub.-- indicator set. " (column 1 lines 14-20, column 2 lines 5-22, and column 16 lines 1-8).

As per claims 2 and 3, Nuber et al. teach transport stream packets and elementary stream packets. Nuber explains a transport packet by stating "Multiplexing according to the MPEG -2 standard is accomplished by packaging raw elementary streams such as coded video and audio into packetized elementary stream (PES)

Art Unit: 2133

packets which are then inserted into transport packets." Therefore the transport packets include the PES (column 1 lines 40-67, and column 7 lines 39-59).

As per claims 4 and 6, Nuber et al. teach ignoring a packet found to have an encryption error (column 6 lines 43-51).

As per claim 5, Nuber et al. teach using fill bits to compensate for missing data and therefore the dropped or lost packet is ignored (column 13 lines 30-36).

As per claim 7, Nuber et al. teach using flags when an error condition is detected (column 13 lines 37-65, column 18 line 64 through column 19 line 2).

As per claims 8-11, Nuber et al. teach identifying whether a packet is scrambled by header information in elementary stream data and transport stream data. Nuber explains a transport packet by stating "Multiplexing according to the MPEG -2 standard is accomplished by packaging raw elementary streams such as coded video and audio into packetized elementary stream (PES) packets which are then inserted into transport packets." Therefore the transport packets include the PES (column 1 line 40 through column 2 line 15, column 7 lines 39-52, and column 16 lines 1-8).

As per claims 20 and 21, Nuber et al teach a method and apparatus for communicating data via a packetized data stream, and the detection of and recovery from errors in high rate digital data streams which is capable of detecting continuity errors by using a counter (column 4 line 53 through column 5 line 6).

As per claim 21, Webster's defines rate as " a fixed ratio between two things, a quantity, amount, or degree of something measured per unit of something else" therefore 'determining a continuity error rate based upon a continuity discrepancy count

and a packet count' is according to the above definition. However, Nuber discloses keeping track of continuity errors and maintaining a continuity discrepancy count and a packet count in order to keep track of continuity errors (column 4 line 53 through column 5 line 6, column 6 line 67 through column 7 line 6, column 16 line 8 - 48).

As per claims 25-31, Nuber et al. teach that the syntax and semantics of the MPEG -2 transport stream are defined in the International Organization for Standardization, ISO/IEC 13818-1. Nuber et al also teach using packetized elementary streams of video data which are transmitted according to the standard and error detection is provided for the syntax errors including fixed bit patterns, value ranges, previous packet numbering or sequencing, and non repetition of packets (column 1 lines 55-63, column 9 line 21 through column 12 line 42).

As per claims 26,27 and 29, Nuber et al. teach that the syntax and semantics of the MPEG -2 transport stream are defined in the International Organization for Standardization, ISO/IEC 13818-1. Nuber et al also teach using packetized elementary streams of video data which are transmitted according to the standard and error detection is provided for the syntax errors including fixed bit patterns, value ranges, previous packet numbering or sequencing, and non repetition of packets (column 1 lines 55-63, column 9 line 21 through column 12 line 42). Nuber et al. also discloses using a pointer to keep track of values such as timestamps packet length (column 18 lines 37-66) and continuity (based on previous packet number or count - column 16 line 8 - 48)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nuber et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,742,623 in view of Bock et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,948,119.

As per claim 12, Nuber et al. teach a method and apparatus for communicating data via a packetized data stream, and the detection of and recovery from errors in high rate digital data streams including an indication of scrambling within the packet. Nuber et al. also disclose using pointer registers to indicate errors (column 1 lines 14-20, column 2 lines 5-22, and column 16 lines 1-8, see table 1 and column 18 lines 64-66). Not explicitly disclosed is that the hardware is capable of recognizing the error condition.

However in an analogous art, Bock et al. discloses a method and system for detecting errors in transmitted packetized data, in which the hardware can be designed to detect the errors in the packets (column 9 lines 16-45, Figure 5, column 19 line 18 through column 20 line 14, and figure 13). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to have used the hardware as described by Bock et al with the method and system taught by Nuber et al. This would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the hardware or software required to detect these error conditions are interchangeable as suggested by Bock et al. (column 9 lines 16-23).

As per claims 13 and 14, Nuber et al. teach transport stream packets and elementary stream packets (column 1 lines 40-67, and column 7 lines 39-59).

As per claim 15, Nuber et al. teach using flags when an error condition is detected. The isodata header will be parsed, to find a data.sub.-- rate.sub.-- flag which is set and to find and record the data clock increment value, if present. If the data.sub.-- rate.sub.-- flag is set, the increment value will be stored into a register and the system microprocessor will be interrupted to indicate that the increment value has been received on the isodata PID (column 13 lines 37-65, column 18 line 64 through column 19 line 2). Nuber et al. also disclose using pointer registers to indicate errors (see table 1 and column 18 lines 64-66).

As per claim 16 and 17, Bock et al. teach sending an error code to a video decoder, which is superimposed onto the video signal (column 13 line 51 through column 15 line 32, Figure 9).

As per claims 18 and 19, Nuber et al. teach recording errors and that the error correction units have user settable registers (column 14 lines 23-32 and column 26 line 48 through column 27 line 32).

Claims 22-24, 32-45, and 58, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nuber et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,742,623 in view of Galbi U.S. Patent No. 5,768,292.

As per claims 22-24, and 58, Nuber et al teach a method and apparatus for communicating data via a packetized data stream, and the detection of and recovery from errors in high rate digital data streams which is capable of detecting continuity

errors by using a counter (column 4 line 53 through column 5 line 6). Not explicitly disclosed is the inputs received from external devices.

However, in an analogous art Galbi teaches in response to an error signal from an external source of an MPEG audio data stream, an MPEG audio decoder replaces errors in the audio data stream with an error code which is a bit combination rarely found in MPEG audio data frames, and then temporarily enables error handling. The audio data stream containing error codes can be saved or buffered in the decoder (column 2 lines 41-54). During audio decoding with error handling enabled, the decoder checks the audio data for the bit combination equaling the error code and replaces the bit combination with reconstructed data. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have used the external signals taught by Galbi with the system of error detection in MPEG data streams taught by Nuber et al. This would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have known that external devices are typically used with MPEG audio/video decoding systems as disclosed by Galbi (column 1 line 60 through column 2 line 3).

As per claims 32-45, Nuber et al. teach a method and apparatus for communicating data via a packetized data stream which can be packetized elementary streams or transport packets of MPEG data, and the detection of and recovery from errors in high rate digital data streams which is capable of detecting continuity errors by using a counter and other syntax errors in the packet. Nuber et al. also disclose a decoder for receiving error indications in video data (column 3 lines 5-14, claims 18-33,

column 4 line 53 through column 5 line 6, column 1 lines 55-63, column 9 line 21 through column 12 line 42).

Galbi teaches a method for decoding a digital data stream containing an error, including the steps of: transmitting a digital data stream from a data source to a decoder; asserting an error signal from the data source to the decoder when the data source detects an error; replacing a portion of data in a digital data stream with an error code when the error signal and the portion of data are received by the decoder; asserting a flag signal in the decoder to enable replacing of bit combinations which are in the data stream and equal to the error code; changing the data stream by replacing a bit combination which is in the data stream and equal to the error code; and decoding the changed data stream (column 2 lines 5-54, figures 1 and figure 7-all, column 35 lines 2-18).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Britt whose telephone number is 703-308-2391. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

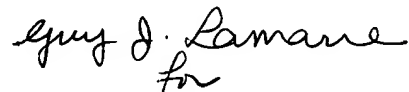
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on 703-305-9595. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2133

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.


CHB
July 13, 2003

Cynthia Britt
Examiner
Art Unit 2133


for
Albert DeCady
Primary Examiner